

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 BUENOS 06669 282024Z
ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 CAB-02 CIAE-00 COME-00
DODE-00 DOTE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 FAA-00 L-03 /034 W
-----128399 290545Z /13
R 281947Z AUG 78
FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7171

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BUENOS AIRES 6669

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EAIR AR
SUBJ: FAIR COMPETITIVE PRACTICES ACT INVESTIGATION

REF: STATE 195072

1. EMBOFF MET WITH CAPT. ROBERTO RODRIGUEZ, CHIEF OF THE ECONOMIC DEPARTMENT OF THE REGIONAL AIR COMMAND, ON AUGUST 22 TO PASS ON SUBSTANCE OF REFTEL. IN SPECIFIC ANSWER TO REQUEST FOR COST INFORMATION ON GROUND HANDLING SERVICES AT EZEIZA, RODRIGUEZ SAID THAT THERE MUST HAVE BEEN A MISUNDERSTANDING OF WHAT WAS AGREED TO WHEN U.S. DELEGATION VISITED ARGENTINA IN MARCH 1977 TO LOOK INTO USER CHARGES. HE SAID THAT AT THAT TIME THE GOA HAS AGREED TO FURNISH GENERAL ECONOMIC INFORMATION ON REVENUES AND COSTS OF RUNNING INTERNATIONAL AIRPORTS OR, SPECIFICALLY, THE TYPE OF INFORMATION THE GOA WOULD FURNISH TO ICAO. HE CLAIMED THAT THE COSTS OF GROUND HANDLING SERVICES ARE NOT ENCOMPASSED IN THE ICAO STUDY AND THAT, MOREOVER, ARE NOT DIRECTLY AVAILABLE TO THE REGIONAL AIR COMMAND. IN THE CASE OF EZEIZE, THE REGIONAL AIR COMMAND HAS GIVEN THE GROUND HANDLING CONCESSION TO THE STATE-OWNED AIRLINE AEROLINEAS. WHILE THE REGIONAL AIR COMMAND APPROVES THE HANDLING SERVICE RATES CHARGED

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 BUENOS 06669 282024Z

BY AEROLINEAS, IT DOES NOT KEEP ON RECORD ANY INFORMATION ON AEROLINEAS' COSTS OF PROVIDING THESE SERVICES.

2. NOTWITHSTANDING THE ABOVE, RODRIGUEZ SAID THAT HIS OFFICE WOULD BE WILLING TO INVESTIGATE THE COST BASIS OF GROUND HANDLING SERVICE CHARGES BY AEROLINEAS

IF A COMPLAINT IS FORMALLY PRESENTED BY AN AIRLINE -
SOMETHING WHICH HE CLAIMED HAD NOT BEEN DONE IN AT
LEAST TWO YEARS, AND AT THAT TIME THE COMPLAINT
INVOLVED THE QUALITY RATHER THAN COST OF THE SERVICES.
RODRIGUEZ SAID THAT HE SAW NO REASON FOR THE USG TO
BECOME INVOLVED UNLESS HIS OFFICE AND THE U.S.
AIRLINE PRESENTING THE COMPLAINT FAILED TO REACH AN
AGREEMENT. HE ACKNOWLEDGED THAT SERVICES AT EZEIZA
ARE EXPENSIVE, BUT BELIEVES THAT THIS IS PRIMARILY
DUE TO THE FACT THAT IT IS A TERMINAL AIRPORT WITH
VERY LOW FLIGHT FREQUENCY. HE EMPHASIZED THAT THERE
IS NO DISCRIMINATION AS TO THE RATES AEROLINEAS
CHARGES THE VARIOUS AIRLINES.

3. LOCAL BRANIFF REPRESENTATIVE MARPLES INFORMS US
THAT BRANIFF AND OTHER AIRLINES PRESENTED COMPLAINT
REGARDING GROUND HANDLING SERVICES DIRECTLY TO
AEROLINEAS ARGENTINAS, WITH INFORMATION COPY TO THE
CHIEF OF THE EZEIZA AIRPORT, IN FEBRUARY 1977. HE
SAID IT WAS ASSUMED THAT THIS COMPLAINT WOULD
EVENTUALLY REACH RODRIGUEZ'S OFFICE. HE ADDED THAT
BOTH BRANIFF AND BRITISH CALEDONIAN HAD RECENTLY
AGREED TO PAY UNDER PROTEST THEIR ARREARS IN
GROUND HANDLING CHARGES OWED TO AEROLINEAS.

4. IN VIEW OF POSITION TAKEN BY RODRIGUEZ, WE
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 BUENOS 06669 282024Z

URGED BRANIFF TO PRESENT FORMAL COMPLAINT ON GROUND
HANDLING CHARGES DIRECTLY TO THE ECONOMIC DEPARTMENT
OF THE REGIONAL AIR COMMAND. MARPLES AGREED TO
CONTACT RODRIGUEZ, WHO APPARENTLY IS A CLOSE FRIEND
OF HIS.

5. COMMENT: IN VIEW OF APPARENT MISUNDERSTANDING,
WE RECOMMEND POSTPONING ANY RETALIATORY ACTION UNTIL
WE SEE HOW RODRIGUEZ RESPONDS TO DIRECT COMPLAINT
FROM BRANIFF.
CASTRO

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: COSTS, DATA, AIRPORT FEES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 28 aug 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978BUENOS06669
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780352-0131
Format: TEL
From: BUENOS AIRES
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780814/aaaaalwo.tel
Line Count: 105
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 9c0f635a-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EB
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 STATE 195072
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1594726
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: FAIR COMPETITIVE PRACTICES ACT INVESTIGATION
TAGS: EAIR, AR
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/9c0f635a-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014